

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 17, 19 – 33 and 35 – 48 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 3 – 17, 19 – 33 and 35 – 48 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 17 and 33 have been amended.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 17 and 33 have been clarified to make clear that the first position as being “in order to be configured to accept insertion of the lead.” (see, for example, claim 1, line 7) and to make clear that certain configurations are defined “while in the second position” (see, for example, claim 1, lines 16 – 17). Support for these amendments can be in Figures 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D; in paragraph [0039], lines 1 – 5 and 18 – 32; in paragraph [0046], lines 1 – 6; and throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Provisional Rejections

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33 and 35-48 stand provisionally rejected based on obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-28 of copending U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0027327 and over claims 1-30 of copending U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0027326. Applicants will address the provisional rejections upon allowance of the claims.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33 and 35-48 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,769,671 to Lim (“Lim”). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinguishable from Lim and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims are generally directed to a connector assembly that includes a connector clip having a top portion extending between a first arm that extends from the top portion to a first end and a second arm that extends from the top

portion to a second end. The connector clip is capable of being deflected, in order to be configured to accept insertion of the lead within one of a first member and a second member of a housing, from a first position corresponding to the first end and the second end being offset and overlapping so that a first wall along the first end is adjacent to and engaged against a second wall of the second end (see FIGS. 3A and 3B), to a second position corresponding to the first arm and the second arm being partially spread apart so that the ends are non-overlapping and aligned so that the first end abuts the second end and the first side wall is not adjacent to and engaged against the second side wall (see FIGS. 3C and 3D).

Lim does not teach a connector clip that is capable of being deflected, in order to be configured to accept insertion of the lead within one of a first member and a second member of a housing, from a first position corresponding to the first end and the second end being offset and overlapping so that a first wall along the first end is adjacent to and engaged against a second wall of the second end, to a second position corresponding to the first arm and the second arm being partially spread apart so that the ends are non-overlapping and aligned so that the first end abuts the second end and the first side wall is not adjacent to and engaged against the second side wall, as set forth in independent claims 1, 17 and 33 of the present invention.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 17 and 33 are patentably distinguishable from Lim '671. It is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1, 17 and 33, over the claims as amended, are improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 3 – 16, 19 – 32 and 35 – 48, dependent upon independent claims 1, 17 and 33, respectively, are patentable over Lim '671 for the reasons discussed above and because each such claims contains additional patentable features. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 3 – 16, 19 – 32 and 35 – 48, over the claims as amended, are also improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 3 – 17, 19 – 33 and 35 – 48 should be allowable, this application should be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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February 7, 2008
Date